

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the objection and rejection and further examination are requested.

The specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised to make a number of editorial revisions thereto. A substitute specification and abstract including the revisions have been prepared and are submitted herewith. No new matter has been added. Also, a marked-up copy of the substitute specification and abstract indicating the revisions incorporated therein are submitted herewith.

Further, claims 1-6 have been amended to make a number of editorial revisions thereto. These revisions have been made to place the claims in better U.S. form. None of these amendments have been made to narrow the scope of protection of the claims, or to address issues related to patentability, and therefore, these amendments should not be construed as limiting the scope of equivalents of the claimed features offered by the Doctrine of Equivalents.

Figures 2 and 3 have been objected to as not being labeled as "Prior Art." Submitted herewith are replacement Figures 2 and 3 labeled as "Prior Art." No new matter has been added by these revisions. As a result, withdrawal of the objection to Figures 2 and 3 is respectfully requested.

Also, replacement Figure 8 is submitted herewith. Figure 8 has been amended so as to properly label the outputs "YES" and "NO" of the decision step S804. This amendment is supported by the original specification at page 21, lines 13-25. As a result, no new matter has been added.

The Examiner has requested that the Applicant provide a copy of Chapter 5 "File System" of "MINIX Operating System." As a result, the requested copy is submitted herewith.

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over admitted prior art Figure 2 (APA) in view of Cornaby (US 5,355,486).

Claim 1 has been amended so as to further distinguish the present invention, as recited therein, from the references relied upon in the rejection. As a result, the above-mentioned rejection is submitted to no longer be applicable to the claims for the following reasons.

Claim 1 is patentable over the combination of APA and Cornaby, since claim 1 recites a recording and reproduction apparatus including, in part, a file system including a plurality of internal buffers for temporarily holding data transferred between a plurality of processors and a

hard disk, the plurality of internal buffers being for respective kinds of accesses to a same file executed at a same time between the plurality of processors and the hard disk. The combination of APA and Cornaby fails to disclose or suggest a file system including a plurality of internal buffers as recited in claim 1.

Regarding APA, it discloses a file system 104 including an HDD transfer controller 13, a file management unit 11 and an internal buffer 12-1. (See Figure 2). As implied by the rejection, it is apparent that APA fails to disclose or suggest that the file system 104 includes a plurality of internal buffers. Instead, the file system 104 only includes the single internal buffer 12-1. As a result, Cornaby is relied upon as disclosing this feature of claim 1.

Cornaby discloses a dual disk drive actuator system including a microprocessor 12 which controls the overall operation of the system and two independent channels (CHANNEL A and CHANNEL B) for transferring data to and from a disk 65. CHANNEL A includes a memory buffer 27 and CHANNEL B includes a memory buffer 29. One of the functions of the microprocessor 12 is to control the allocation of tasks between CHANNEL A and CHANNEL B. The microprocessor 12 allocated the tasks between the channels by assigning each new task to a task register in an empty queue which has a lowest task register address. (See column 3, line 40 - column 4, line 40; column 5, lines 27-43; and Figure 1).

In the rejection, the memory buffers 27 and 29 are relied upon as corresponding to the plurality of internal buffers recited in claim 1. However, claim 1 recites that the plurality of internal buffers are for respective kinds of accesses to a same file executed at a same time between a plurality of processors and a hard disk. On the other hand, Cornaby discloses that new tasks are allocated between the memory buffer 27 and the memory buffer 29 associated with CHANNEL A and CHANNEL B, respectively, based on the lowest task register address. Therefore, it is apparent that the memory buffers 27 and 29 are not associated with respective kinds of accesses to a same file executed at a same time, and instead are used for any type of access to the disk 65. As a result, it is apparent that the memory buffers 27 and 29 do not correspond to the plurality of internal buffers as recited in claim 1.

In consideration of the above discussion, APA and Cornaby do not, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a plurality of internal buffers being for respective kinds of accesses to a same file executed at a same time between a plurality of processors and a hard disk,

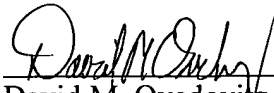
which is recited in claim 1. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify or combine the references so as to obtain the invention as recited in claim 1.

Because of the above-mentioned distinctions, it is believed clear that claims 1-6 are allowable over the references relied upon in the rejection. Furthermore, it is submitted that the distinctions are such that a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would not have been motivated to make any combination of the references of record in such a manner as to result in, or otherwise render obvious, the present invention as recited in claims 1-6. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 1-6 are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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